

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 03919 061554Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 077351

O 061454Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2694

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 3919

EXDIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: POINS ASEC VE

SUBJ: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING

1. JAKE LONGAN HAS ASKED THAT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGES FROM THE KIDNAPPERS AND FROM WILLIAM NIEHOUS BE TRANSMITTED TO WILLIAM COLEMAN, VICE PRESIDENT OF WOENS-ILLINOIS OF TOLEDO, OFFICE PHONE AREA CODE 419-242-3534, HOME PHONE AC 419-531-2647. IF MR COLEMAN SHOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE, HE REQUESTED THAT THE MESSAGES BE TRANSMITTED ONLY RPT ONLY TO MR. EDWIN D. DODD, PRESIDENT OF OWENS-ILLINOIS, OFFICE PHONE AREA CODE 419-248-4881, HOME PHONE AREA CODE 419-882-2669.

2. MESSAGE FROM THE KIDNAPPERS (IN INFORMAL TRANSLATION):

QUOTE: VENEZUELA APRIL 5, 1976. MR. DIRECTOR OF OWENS-ILLINOIS OF VENEZUELA C.A.: WE HAVE RECEIVED YOUR RESPONSE THRU THE MEDIUM WE REQUESTED TO THE LETTER WE SENT YOU OF RECENT DATE. NEVERTHELESS AT THE MOMENT OF DRAFTING THIS LETTER WE HAVE NOT HAD PROOF OF COMPLIANCE WITH OUR REQUESTS.

WE SAID PREVIOUSLY THAT 'YOU SHOULD COMPLY IMMEDIATELY' TO WHAT WE POINTED OUT AS THE FIRST AND SECOND CONDITION FOR NOW IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE LIBERTY OF MR WILLIAM NIEHOUS.

FOR THE FIRST, PAYMENT OF A BONUS OF 500 BOLIVARES TO THE WORKERS OF OWENS-ILLINOIS OF VENEZUELA AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 03919 061554Z

WE SAID THAT SOME OF THE WORKERS SHOULD INFORM THE

PRESS OF THE BONUS RECEIVED.

WITH REGARD TO THE SECOND, THE NEGATIVE STANCE ON THE PART OF THE GOVT TOWARD THE PUBLICATION OF THE DOCUMENTS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY THEIR REPRESSIVE AGGRESSION AGAINST THE INFORMATION MEDIA OF THE COUNTRY. NEVERTHELESS THIS SHOULD BE CONFIRMED BY YOU IN A PRESS CONFERENCE WHERE YOU WILL EXPLAIN BEFORE PUBLIC OPINION THAT YOU WISH TO PUBLISH THE MATERIAL FORWARDED TO YOU BUT THE VENEZUEALN GOVT DOES NOT PERMIT IT. IN ADDITION PUBLISH THE DOCUMENT IN QUESTION IMMEDIATELY IN THE FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS WE HAVE INDICATED.

WE ARE ATTACHING TO THE LETTER SOME HAND-WRITTEN NOTES FROM MR NIEHOUS. YOU WILL SEND TO MRS. DONNA NIEHOUS THE ONE ADDRESSED TO HER BUT NONE OF THIS SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO THE POLICE NOR TO THE PRESS NOR TO ANY OTHER PERSON EXCEPT YOURSELF OR MRS. NIEHOUS.

IF OUR INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICE DETERMINES THAT THE POLICE KNOW OF THIS OR THAT YOU HAVE INFORMED THEM OF THE STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATION AT WHICH WE FIND OURSELVES, YOU COULD BE ACCELERATING THE EXECUTION OF MR. NIEHOUS OR IN THE BEST OF CASES PROLONGING HIS CAPTIVITY.

AT A FUTURE OPPORTUNITY A NEGOTIATOR SENT BY US WILL PRESENT HIMSELF TO YOU AND WILL IDENTIFY HIMSELF WITH SOME PERSONAL OBJECT OF MR. NIEHOUS'S OR WITH ONE OF THE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS. FOR THE TIME BEING WE RESERVE - FOR OBVIOUS REASONS THE INDICATION OF WHAT THIS WILL BE AS WELL AS THE MOMENT OF HIS CONTACT WITH YOU.

TO CONCLUDE WE ONLY WISH TO REPEAT THAT YOU SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY SILENT WITH REGARD TO THE STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO REACH. ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU MAINTAIN THIS SECRET WILL DEPEND IN GOOD PART THE ACCELERATION OF THE LIBERTY OF MR. WILLIAM NIEHOUS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 03919 061554Z

IN EXPECTATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS WHICH WE HAVE NOW INDICATED. GROUPS OF REVOLUTIONARY COMANDOS OPERATION ARGIMIRO GABALDON. UNQUOTE.

3. NOTE FROM MR. NIEHOUS: (INFORMAL TRANSLATION):

QUOTE: MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF OWENS-ILLINOIS OF VENEZUELA, ESTEEMED DIRECTORS: THRU MESSAGES

PREVIOUSLY SENT TO MY WIFE AND TO THE AMBASSADOR OF MY COUNTRY, YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE THAT I AM ALIVE AND IN GOOD HEALTH. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN PUBLIC DECLARATIONS GIVEN TO THE MEDIA, MR. COLEMAN, MR. J. PUENTE HAVE INDICATED THAT THE CHANNELS OF THE OWENS-ILLINOIS OF VENEZUELA ENTERPRISE ARE OPEN TO ANY TYPE OF NEGOTIATION WITH MY KIDNAPPERS. YOU HAVE LENT ALL SORTS OF SOLIDARITY TO MY WIFE AND MY FAMILY, SOMETHING THAT I PERSONALLY APPRECIATE VERY MUCH.

TO ARRIVE AT A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT AND RESOLVE THIS SITUATION RAPIDLY, IT IS NECESSARY THAT THE CIVIL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES OF VENEZUELA NOT INTERFERE IN THE MATTER AND THAT YOU GIVE PERMISSION TO PUBLISH THE DATA PREPARED BY MY CAPTORS IN THIS COUNTRY OR ABROAD. REFUSAL TO PUBLISH THE DATA ENDANGERS THE NEGOTIATIONS AND AS A RESULT MY PERSONAL SECURITY. THE NEGOTIATION SHOULD BE SECRET. I EXPECT EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION ON YOUR PART AND THAT YOU WILL KNOW HOW TO COMPLY WITH THE DEMANDS OF THE GROUP WHICH IS HOLDING ME PRISONER. REGARDS BILL. UNQUOTE.

4. THE NOTE SIGNED BILL IS HANDWRITTEN AND OWENS-ILLINOIS CARACAS OFFICIALS ARE CERTAIN THAT IT WAS WRITTEN BY NIEHOUS. THREE LINES AT THE END OF THE NOTE ARE BLACKED OUT IN INK. THE NOTE FROM THE KIDNAPPERS IS TYPED AND APPEARS TO HAVE THE SAME CHARACTERISTICS AS PREVIOUS MESSAGES. THE NOTES WERE DELIVERED BY A CATHOLIC PRIEST, PRESUMABLY ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE CARDINAL, TO JOSE PUENTE. NEITHER THE CHANNEL NOR THE CONTENT OF THESE MESSAGES HAVE BEEN REVEALED TO THE VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES. THE SAME PRIEST ALSO DELIVERED THE PREVIOUS MESSAGE CARRIED TO THE US BY CAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CARACA 03919 061554Z

PHILLIPS AND REPORTED IN CARACAS 3845 PARAGRAPH ONE.

5. MR LONGAN HAS ASKED THAT THIS INFORMATION BE CLOSELY HELD. IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE 65137, LONGAN WAS INFORMED THAT INFORMATION WILL BE CONVEYED TO THE DEPT AS PART OF REGULAR EMBASSY REPORTING ON THE CASE AND THAT THE DEPT WOULD BE, AS IT HAS BEEN, IN TOUCH WITH OWENS-ILLINOIS' HOME OFFICE.

6. COMMENT: WE FORESEE BEING CALLED UPON BY O-I TO CONVEY ADDITIONAL MESSAGES OF THIS TYPE. THE FACT THAT THE GOV IS NOT AWARE OF THE NEW CHANNEL CREATES A POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT PROBLEM WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPT'S GUIDANCE.
SHLAUDEMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUSINESSMEN, KIDNAPPING, TERRORISTS, COMMUNIQUE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA03919
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760129-0599
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760494/aaaadckr.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, VE, (NIEHOUS, WILLIAM F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006